

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-13 remain pending in the present application.

The claim identifiers of claims 1 and 2 have been replaced to "Original" based upon the telephonic discussion of the Examiner and Applicants' representative on February 25, 2010 (while not conceding to the U.S.P.T.O.'s treatment regarding the article 19 claims, but to merely advance prosecution).

Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are respectfully requested. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Interview Summary

Applicant's representative hereby acknowledges with appreciation the telephone interview conducted with the Examiner on February 25, 2010. The Interview Summary dated March 3, 2010 accurately reflects the substance of the interview.

As the present Supplemental Amendment clearly indicates the claim identifiers as the Examiner suggests in the Interview Summary, the present application is ready for further action on the merits.

As such entry of the instant amendment and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited at present.

Conclusion

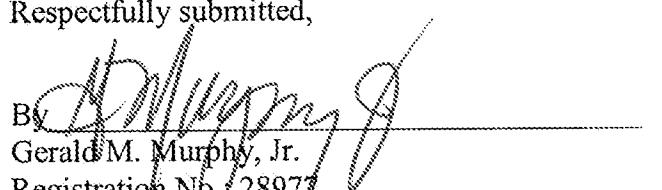
Based upon the amendments and remarks presented herein, the Examiner is respectfully requested to issue a Notice of Allowance clearly indicating that each of the pending claims is allowed.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Toyohiko Konno, Reg. No. L0053 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Director is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge any fees required during the pendency of the above-identified application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

Dated: MAR 16 2010

Respectfully submitted,


By _____
Gerald M. Murphy, Jr.
Registration No. 28977
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road, Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
703-205-8000